

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2692

LIMDIS

FOR EUR/SOV AND EB/TT/MA

PASS COMMERCE FOR MARAD/ASST SEC BLACKWELL

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: EWWT US UR

SUBJ: UPCOMING MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MARAD WA-75-0152

1. IN OBVIOUSLY IRRITABLE MOOD MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY
FORIEGN RELATIONS CHIEF AVERIN CALLED IN EMBOFF FEB 27 TO
OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON CONTENTS REFTEL:

A) TALKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELAYED ONCE; ASST SEC
BLACKWELL'S MARCH 7 ARRIVAL WILL EFFECTIVELY DELAY THEM EVEN
MORE. AVERIN IN TURN HAS POSTPONED NEGOTIATIONS WITH
NORWEGIANS, BUT DEFINITELY MUST LEAVE FOR OSLO NO LATER
THAN MARCH 15.

B) FOLLOWING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS BOTH US
AND SOVI DELEGATIONS HAD AGREED THAT FEBRUARY (NOW MARCH)
TALKS WOULD DEAL EXCLUSIVELY RPT EXCLUSIVELY WITH NEW
MARITIME AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, POINTS A-C, PARA . 3, OF
REFTEL INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO AVERIN, BESIDES WHICH HE
RESENTS "ULTIMATUM" CONTAINED IN THEM.

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C) OUTSIDE FRAMEWORK OF PURPOSE FOR WHICH PRESENT TALKS BEING CONVENED (I.E., TO NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENT) AVERIN PERPARED TO DISCUSS BULD CARGO HAULAGE OR OTHER PROBLEMS WITH US DELEGATION. HOWEVER, CHIEF SOVIET EXPERTS ON BULK CARGO (ZUYEV AND KONSTANTINOV OF SOVFRACHT) WILL NOT RPT NOT BE IN MOSCOW WEEK OF MARCH 3.

D) AT JUNE 1974 SUMMIT MEETING LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON DESIRABILITY OF NEGOTIATING NEW MARITIME AGREEMENT. IF ASST SEC BLACKWELL DOES NOT NOW WISH TO DISCUSS NEW AGREEMENT, SOVIETS WILLING TO POSTPONE TALKS INDEFINITELY UNTIL HE IS READY.

2. EVEN IF US DELEGATION PREPARED TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING NEW AGREEMENT FROM OUTSET, AVERIN DOUBTS THAT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CAN BE SETTLED WITHOUT PRESENCE OF ASST SEC BLACKWELL. THEREFORE, HE PROPOSES THAT ENTIRE DELEGATION POSTPONE ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW UNTIL MARCH 7, AFTER WHICH INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW AGREE-
MENT WOULD BE HELD UNTIL AVERIN'S DEPARTURE FOR OSLO ON MARCH 15. FOLLOWING THAT, US DELEGATION COULD THEN PROCEED ON EXCURSION TO TBILISI.

3. IN RECAPING HIS PRESENTATION, AVERIN STRESSED HE COULD SEE NO USEFUL PURPOSE BEING SERVED BY ARRIVAL OF DELEGATION WITHOUT BLACKWELL ON MARCH 2. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOESSEL

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